**GRANT PROPOSAL**

**Cover Letter**

**Dear, Mrs. Atwater,**

**My name is Mr. Sean Williams and I am a teacher at a social studies at Tuscarora High School in Frederick County, Maryland. We are a small rural somewhat diverse school with a total student body population of 1,493 students in grades 9-12. Our quaint little school is located some distance from the border school counties that surround the Washington, DC Major Metropolitan Area, which understandably have greater amounts of funding for school technology, project, and field trips. However I do not think that a student’s access to technological resources and memorable lifelong learning experiences should be determined by where they live or the public school budget of the county they reside in.**

**The classroom that I work out of only has a single computer in it which makes any sort of project that I wish to do with my students via the computer or Internet virtually implausible. This is an part why I am writing to your organization to request a significant grant, not only will it allow me to better teach and deliver new and exciting content to all my other classes with Microsoft Office and high speed Internet access, but I will be able to fulfill a large scale project and field trip with my 12th grade European History Class. Right now as my 12th grade European History class approaches the midpoint of the school year, we are almost at the 21st century, and by the end of the year we will be at the present in 2014. I request the help of your organization for more computers to do a virtual European field trip with my class and also a 2 week study abroad this summer to London and Paris.**

**Of all my classes my maximum size is 25 students, so I respectfully request $13,749.75 for 25 17 inch Dell laptops running Windows 8.1. For the study trip I have a total of 10 students in my European History class, and all have expressed an interest in going. Despite their limited means, through parental help and of their own volition each has managed to come up with the mandatory $4,000 dollars to attend the summer trip. To supplement the rest of the study abroad trip I request a sum of $20,000. This amounts to a grand total of $33,749.75.**

**I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to review and consider my grant proposal. If at any time you have any questions and or concerns please do not hesitate to call me on my cell phone day or night at 1-240-328-8370.**

**Sincerely,**

**Sean Williams**

**Top of the Line Dell Laptops and 12th grade European History Study Abroad**

**Submitted to: 1675 Foundation**

[www.1675Foundation.org](http://www.1675Foundation.org)

**Frederick County Public Schools**

**Tuscarora High School**

**Superintendent: Dr. Theresa R. Alban**

[superintendent@fcps.org](mailto:superintendent@fcps.org)

**1-301-696-6910**

**Description of Purpose**

The two purposes of this request is as stated above to acquire 25 good quality laptops for my social studies classroom and to help supplement the remaining costs of the study abroad trip for the seniors. Seeing as how this coincides with some of your foundations main goals including but not necessarily limited to: “opportunities for educational enrichment for under-served children” and “programs that provide access to and awareness of the arts”; I believe that this proposal merits your careful consideration. Your grant allows for the maximum amount of a potential $50,000 which puts my request of $33,749.75 just slightly above the median allowance. I ask you to find it within yourselves to see that in today’s 21st century society there really is no better way to help “under-served children” then by providing them with first class computing technology, and the seniors who attend the study abroad will come back with more of “awareness of the arts” than they ever imagined was conceivably possible.

**Needs Assessment**

At Tuscarora High School I teach three classes of 9th grade World History, one Psychology elective class, and the 12th grade European History class. My teaching style differs in the fact that all of my testing and many summative and formative assessments are carried out in the form of essays. It is extremely rare for me to give assignments out in any other form, but without the computers I feel I am adding a heavier burden to students then what should be required. I am trying to prepare my students for how the majority of their assignments in college will be oriented should they so choose to attend school at the higher level. Furthermore it is hard to think of a job or career in the 21st century that does not require some basic knowledge of computers and how to write a report of some type on them. The 12th grade European History class has worked hard, those students have sacrificed a lot this year going above and beyond the call of duty to raise the required $4000 dollars each, I feel for that dedication and perseverance I owe them this trip, especially given the fact that they have done all this and no student has less than a grade of B in that class.

**Demographics**

My three 9th grade classes have 16, 24, and 20 students in them respectively, the Psychology class has15 students in it while the European History class has 10 students in it as stated before. The combined racial statistics for all of my classes is 63 White, 16 Black, and 6 Asian. I myself am African American, one of the few colored teachers in the school. The grant will impact drastically the three 9th grade World History classes, one Psychology class, and one European History class. Even though none of my classes reaches the requested number of 25 laptops, by having 25, I allow myself a little wiggle room for classroom demonstration and or in the off chance a student transfers in to one of my classes.

**Technology**

The existing technology in the county consists of small computer labs within the school’s library which utilize outdated Windows software. It is very rare for any school classroom within our county to have any computers in them, let alone one. If they do, it is something very similar to what I have right now in my classroom, a personal computer circa early 2000 from when Bush Junior was beginning his first term in office. It is my most sincere hope that with this grant money, not only will my school realize that it is time for a change, but the entire county will follow our lead. I also hope to get the county to see the value in these study abroad programs for students, so we can start collectively lobbying to our county officials in public office for these funds.

**Solution Rationale**

The process used to select the technology was actually very straight forward. I have used Dell laptops all throughout college and beyond into graduate school. From Inspiron to XPS, from 15 inch all the way to 17 inch; time and time again they have proven reliable machines that will get the job done. I cannot remember the last time I used an operating system that was not Windows, and now with the release of their latest 8.1 system, this is a must have. The Inspiron 17 Non-Touch is a great laptop that comes with all the features my students will need.

**Roles**

For the most post, I expect to be the school and counties vanguard, all eyes will be on me to see how I can work this new technology in my classroom and organize this study abroad. I expect support from the school technology savvy personal, which consist primarily of those who work in and oversea the school’s small library. They will help with maintenance and any instillations that will arise, as for the trip, I intend to look for one other colleague who shares the same passion for current events, art, culture, and opening students eyes to a much bigger world to help in the planning and chaperoning of the trip.

**Timeline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agenda |  |
| Collect Mandatory $4000 | December 2013 |
| Submit Grant Proposal | April 2014 |
| Expected Grant Notification | June 2014 |
| Study Abroad | July 2014 |
| Dell Laptop Order | August 2014 |
| Dell Laptops Delivery | September 2014 |
| Prepare Results Report | October 2014 |

**Outcomes**

Professionally speaking, to accomplish tasks of this magnitude will be validation for me in so many aspects. Validation: that I am in the right career field, that there is no task to big that I cannot accomplish successfully with time, and most importantly that I have touched the lives of students and given them something that they will never forget. Hopefully a successful outcome spurns other colleagues on to ventures like the one that I am undertaking right now.

**Evaluation**

My success in the classroom will be measured by the fact that now students who had limited or no access to the Internet can now research and explore at will for any assignment. It will be emblazoned by the fact that the students can do their essay assignments in class with ease. For the 10 12 graders going on the Europe tour my success will be measured by how much I have broadened their horizons and left an everlasting thirst for world travel.

**Sustainability**

Regular computer maintenance; including virus checks, deletion of unwanted programs, and just all around gentle usage of the laptops as delicate devices will ensure their longevity. I will just tell the students to treat them as if they were your smartphones. As for the study abroad, its sustainability will depend on the great testimonial of the students, genuine interest from several of next year’s seniors, and a more active role from our high school’s administration.

**Budget Narrative**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Product | Price | Quantity | Total |
| Dell Inspiron 17 Non-Touch | $549.99 | 25 | $13,749.75 |
| Europe Study Abroad | 20,000 | 1 | 20,000 |
|  |  |  | 33,749.75 |